Please amend the Specification of the present Application as follows (no new matter was added):

[0043] The relatively large gap 58 between the counter-plate 30 and the shaft 14 results in essentially loss-free relative motion between the shaft 14 and the counter-plate 30. The inclined contour of the conical extension 42 results in a hydrodynamic bearing being created with a relatively small axial and a relatively large radial component (depending on the slope). The radial thrust bearing, in general, generates a lower power loss than the axial thrust bearing, as a function of the diameter of the shaft and the gap width; therefore, the bearing having the conical extension ~~52~~ 42 is more advantageous with regard to the power loss as the thrust bearing of Fig. 1.

[0045] As shown in Fig. 2, equalizing channels ~~59~~ 49 which permit flow of the bearing fluid are preferably provided in the thrust plate or the conical extension 42. Fluid channels ~~59~~ 49 preferably have a larger diameter than equalizing channels of a conventional design. Having these larger diameter equalizing channels ~~59~~ 49 will result in an enhanced thrust pressure.